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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 325.0164PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US02/38552	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 December 2002 (04.12.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B01D 3/14, 3/42; C10G 7/00, 7/12. and US Cl.: 196/11, 132,141; 202/158, 160; 203/2, 3, 99, DIG.19, 100; 208/347, 351, 363,		
Applicant FLUOR CORPORATION		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>2</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>2</u> sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 19 May 2003 (19.05.2003)	Date of completion of this report 31 January 2005 (31.01.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Virginia Manoharan Telephone No. 571-272-1700 DEBORAH A. THOMAS PARALEGAL SPECIALIST GROUP 1390 <i>Dat</i>	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/38552

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-12 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages 13-15, filed with the letter of 08 December 2004 (08.12.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/38552**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>5-10 and 15-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-4 and 11-14</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-4 and 11-14 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over SHINSKEY in view of TRAGUT et al.

SHINSKEY does not positively disclose a divided wall column that receives a feed comprising at least a first component, a second component and a third component as claimed in claim 1; and the method thereof as claimed in claim 11, but otherwise discloses all the features of the apparatus; and the method thereof as claimed. See columns 5 -12. However, said divided wall column for treating a three-component feed is a known expediency in the art as shown at Fig. 1 of the TRAGUT et al reference. It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use a divided wall column in the manner as taught by TRAGUT et al in the apparatus and process or method of SHINSKEY inasmuch as TRAGUT et al suggests the alternativeness of one over the other.. See Figs. 2A-4D(non-divided column) and Fig. 1(a divided column) for treatment of the same three- components feed.

Claims 5-10 and 15-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed apparatus and method.

Claims 1-20 have industrial applicability under PCT Articles 33(4) because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

NEW CITATIONS

NONE